

- For Immediate Release -

Thursday, February 21, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety Media Relations Urges the use of email for all Media Requests

This is just a reminder to all statewide media that the best way to get a timely response from DPS media relations is to address requests to our email pio@azdps.gov

All of the public information officers at DPS have access to instant email at all times and can respond once a media request is made at the above email address. Too often members of the news media will call or send an email to one of the Public Information Officers requesting immediate information. Because we rotate media call duty, getting back to individual requests may be delayed. For a quicker response time, please send all inquiries to the on call Public Information Officer via e-mail at pio@azdps.gov

During off hours and on weekends the DPS Duty Office may assist with media requests, however its main focus is internal emergency communications. Please refrain from calling the DPS Duty Office. The Duty Office personnel are very busy and their first priority is to facilitate the flow of critical information within DPS related to ongoing law enforcement situations throughout the state.

*Note: To make a Public Records Request, please go directly to the Arizona Department of Public Safety website at www.azdps.gov The Public Information Officers within the DPS Media Relations Office DO NOT handle these requests.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.